

15 a raised linear threading mechanism, including a linear bearing, a threading arm,
16 and a threading cam,
17 wherein said bearing, said arm, and said cam are operably configured to grasp the
18 leader block of the tape, thread the tape through said tape loading path of said helical deck,
19 and couple said leader block to said take-up reel assembly.

1 5. (Amended) A helical scan transport apparatus for reading and writing data on
2 to a magnetic recording tape which is wound on a supply reel rotatably mounted within a
3 removable tape cartridge, wherein the tape has a leader block attached to one end for use in
4 withdrawing the end from said tape cartridge, the transport dimensioned to fit within a
5 rectangular enclosure measuring approximately twelve and one-half inches wide by twenty-six
6 and one-half inches deep and configured such that a plurality of the transport apparatuses
7 may be stacked within the enclosure with a vertical spacing of eleven inches on center, the
8 transport apparatus and enclosure for use with [a Storage Technology Corporation Model
9 4400] an automated cartridge system, the apparatus comprising:

10 a chassis having a front end portion and a rear end portion, said front end portion
11 extending seven inches outward from the enclosure and configured to mate with the [4400]
12 automated cartridge system when said enclosure is coupled to a housing of the [4400]
13 automated cartridge system;

14 an elevator assembly mounted on said chassis at said front end, said elevator assembly
15 configured to receive a tape cartridge from the [4400] automated cartridge system and to
16 position the tape cartridge in a loaded position;

17 a take-up reel assembly coupled to said chassis at said rear end portion;

18 a helical deck mounted on a central portion of said chassis between said elevator
19 assembly and said take-up reel assembly, said helical deck including a rotary read/write head,
20 a substantially linear tape loading path between said elevator assembly and said take-up reel
21 assembly, and a movable guide for seizing the tape from said tape loading path and for at
22 least partially wrapping the tape around said rotary head; and

23 a raised linear threading mechanism, including a linear bearing, a threading arm,
24 and a threading cam,

25 wherein said bearing, said arm, and said cam are operably configured to grasp the
26 leader block of the tape, thread the tape through said tape loading path of said helical deck,
27 and couple said leader block to said take-up reel assembly.

1 9. (Amended) A helical scan transport apparatus for reading and writing data on to
2 a magnetic recording tape supplied in a [3480-style] single reel tape cartridge, the transport
3 comprising:

4 a chassis having a front end portion and a rear end portion;

5 an elevator assembly mounted on said chassis at said front end, said elevator assembly
6 configured to receive the [3480-style] single reel tape cartridge and to position the [3480-
7 style] single reel tape cartridge in a loaded position;

8 a take-up reel assembly coupled to said chassis at said rear end portion;

9 a video tape recorder helical deck mounted on a central portion of said chassis
10 between said elevator assembly and said take-up reel assembly, said helical deck including
11 a rotary read/write head, a substantially linear tape loading path between said elevator
12 assembly and said take-up reel assembly, and a movable guide for seizing the tape from said
13 tape loading path and for at least partially wrapping the tape around said rotary head; and

14 a linear threading mechanism configured to grasp a leader block of the [3480-style]
15 single reel tape cartridge, thread the tape through said tape loading path of said helical deck,
16 and couple said leader block to said take-up reel assembly.

Please cancel Claims 2, 6, and 10 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, and 11-12 are presented to the Examiner for reconsideration. A personal interview between Examiner Korzuch and Examiner Tupper and Applicants' representatives Mr. Michael Ray and Mr. Cono Carrano was conducted on November 9, 1994. The Examiners are thanked for granting the interview. During the interview, the present invention, proposed claim amendments, and the documents cited in the final Office